

NATIONAL CAPITAL AFFAIRS

Not Much Overlooked by Capital Peace Guardians

WASHINGTON.—Charlie Michael has a friend who lives in an apartment on Sixteenth street. He will not allow the use of his name, but this friend of his is a well-known stenographer who is just crazy about the study of astronomy. He goes up on the roof of the apartment on clear nights, lies on his back and watches the various solar and planetary systems swimming about in the universe. He has a lot of pets among the stars, which he treats as if they were fine Japanese fan-tailed goldfish, and when a cloud intervenes 'twixt him and his favorite sun he doesn't like it a bit.

He has a star map, which is a contraption with a lot of slides and fingers which can be manipulated so that what is going on above and the right where each star and each constellation should be.

It is this star map which got him in trouble. In order to see it properly he has to flash a pocket electric light upon it as he lies upon the roof. This is what the police objected to. They had been watching him from some dark point of vantage, and one night when he was communing with his friends in the ether, flashing the electric light on the star map, two large detectives burst on him. They came right through the roof and growled at him.

"How about that Morse you're flashing?" they asked him.

"What are you driving at?"

"Look here. Don't get rough with us," replied the man of the law. "We been watching you down on the street, and you have been flashing Morse."

"Oh, you mean this light?"

"Yes, that light. You been flashing the Morse code."

"Oh, you think I am signalling someone?"

"Well, you know what I mean. You may be signalling some German, so he can know how to drop bombs on this city from an airplane."

And with that the star gazer emitted a wild whoop.

Somehow he got rid of the detectives.

Disproving Theory About Borrowed Umbrellas

WHEN theory backs into fact something is liable to crash. And it won't be fact. Consider, say, umbrellas. One night a woman went to the theater in a costume guaranteed not to fade in the wash. Her companion was more elegantly dressed in silk, and both were adorned with umbrellas. It had started earlier in the evening and was raining lightly when the play was over.

On the outer edge of an impossibly crowded crowd the person you might call the wash lady noticed a Verre de Verre young woman in rose georgette with a lot of frilly silver on the waist.

Naturally, nobody wastes sympathy on any Lady Clara in the "Home, James," class, but when a young woman looks out into the downpouring night with the demoralized anguish of one who may be wearing rose and silver on the installment plan—

So the wash lady offered up her glories. Not that she was one of those sweet creatures you read about, but simply because, as a matter of conscientious comfort, it is a whole heap better to do the right thing and be stung than to let a chance to help get by. Most everybody feels that way.

By the time the two reached Capitol Hill the downpour had become a deluge, and, as black silk calls for all the umbrella it can get, the wash lady had to perform Atlanta's flying act, from track to house steps. And got as drenched as if she had been floundering in the fountain of youth—except for looks, of course.

Next morning the umbrella was returned with a gust of girlish thanks—three words misspelled and eleven uncalculated equations, bless her heart—and that was all there was to that, except:

A man—nice man, at that—who chanced to be standing by when the messenger came expressed surprise at the glorio's return.

"Ever lend an umbrella and fall to get it back?"

"Can't say I ever did, but you know the old saying."

And, as nothing is too remarkable to happen in this world—or the next—there is no telling how many grumpy adage makers have had to take their medicine for writing saws that hinder instead of help.

Georgia Ready to Act as Host to Hungry World

HE WAS a Georgia gentleman, and his face was thoroughly immersed in a section of watermelon. Upon reappearing he spluttered a few times and then branched out upon the following oratorical expedition: "There is no shortage of food in my home state. No, sah. I can say with emphasis and accuracy that the state of Georgia has more food in it at this time than in any other moment in the history of the world. If the starving nations of Europe want to come to Georgia and relieve the pinch of hunger, then Georgia will act as host. I have a million watermelons myself, lying loose on my place, and we are feeling them to the hogs. It sounds wasteful, but it isn't, sah. It isn't. Watermelons grow in Georgia like grass. For a quarter of a dollar you can buy more watermelons than you can carry off in a spring wagon. As for corn and beans, we have 'em there in that land of plenty higher than mountains. I reckon the bean crop of Georgia is more valuable and more splendid than the gold crop of California."

"Talk about your high prices. There is no sense to it. Here I am paying a dollar for this portion of watermelon in a red plush hotel, when down in the state of Georgia they arrest you for interfering with traffic when your watermelons overrun your property and climb out on the road. It is no more of a crime to take a cartload of watermelons off a man's place than it is to go up to his pump and get yourself a drink of water."

"Garden Truck" Grown on Land Worth Much Money

WASHINGTON at the present time probably can boast of the highest priced gardens in the world. To the uninitiated this may sound unreasonable, but it is absolute fact. And the reason lies with the committee in charge of the "back-yard" garden movement.

One of the gardens—probably the most expensive in the lot—is situated on Dupont circle, in the center of the wealth and culture of the city. At the intersection of Connecticut avenue and Massachusetts avenue, to the north, there is a vacant lot—or was a vacant lot—where once stood the Chinese legation. It adjoins the property of Senator Clark of Wyoming, the "copper king." Popular report has it that Senator Clark objected to the old legation building cutting off his view of Dupont circle and had it torn down. Whether or not this was true, the building has been torn down, and in this center of wealth and fashion there now sprouts long rows of corn, tomatoes, beans, potatoes and other garden truck. And almost any afternoon, while fashionable Washington society is swirling past in limousines, several coatless men can be seen working in the garden.

Farther up the street, next door to the Larz Anderson mansion and just across from the Townsend house, is another garden. On any afternoon two hard-working men, inspired by the garden committee's enthusiasm, may be seen working their patches. On Massachusetts avenue there are other gardens, each planted on ground that is worth thousands of dollars.

ROOSTER THINKS HE IS HEN

This Bird Sits Faithfully on Eggs and Has No End of Patience.

Kansas City.—John B. Bales thinks his rooster is carrying mutual independence of sexes entirely too far. The rooster has been sitting for the last two weeks on two eggs, laid by friend hen before leaving for the first time from the farm.

And he has the technique absolute-

ly pat; he sits as if he were born to the job. When the time comes to feed he leaves the nest, stays the right time and returns to the task of warming his potential offspring.

"My wife and I have been keeping chickens ever since we went to house-keeping," said Bales. "but this is the first rooster I ever had that took it into his head he was a hen."

The Indians who know the bee only as introduced by the white settlers call it the "white man's fly."

Miners Get Big Pay.

At Clare, W. Va.—The West Virginia coal miner is becoming a nabob. Making as high as \$30 a day the miners are now sporting automobiles and living in fine style. Automobile salesmen are doing a thriving business.

Understanding No English, Welshmen Were Not Impressed by Arguments Made in That Language.

Formerly, states Julian P. Alexander, in Case and Comment, there were many Welshmen who could not understand English and were yet placed upon the jury of the court. One interesting story is told illustrating the difficulty of achieving the court language to the satisfaction of the jury.

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The court, observing a significant lack of sympathy and only mild curiosity, decided to have an end of their mutual antipathy.

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THIS DOG HAS SOME TALE; WE'LL TELL IT

Leaves Goat Raiser Nothing to Do but Market Animals and Collect Money.

Portland, Ore.—F. A. Pierce, a goat raiser of Canyonville, Ore., has little to do except market his goats and collect the money. His collie dog "Shep" does all the work and shoulders the responsibility of herding and protecting the animals.

"Shep" has a method all his own in taking care of his charges. Instead of driving them, "Shep" leads the goats. At sunrise "Shep" is stirring around trying to get someone to open the gates. After that he starts off for the mountain pastures with his flock scampering along behind. All day he leads them to the choicest spots for feeding.

Late in the afternoon "Shep" gives the signal and the procession starts for home. If he arrives before the children of the household have come



"Shep" Has a Method All His Own

home from school, "Shep" leaves the goats at the gate and rushes to the schoolhouse to notify the children that it's time to open the gates.

If molested by animals or strangers the goats run to "Shep" for protection.

Pierce, with the aid of "Shep," raised the champion goat exhibited at the San Francisco exposition. The animal's hair measured 41½ inches long.

SKULL SO HARD THAT IT FLATTENED BULLET

Atlanta, Ga.—Harriet Owing, nine-year-old negro girl, would be safe at the front without a steel helmet. Hospital doctors extracted a bullet from her forehead which had not penetrated the skull. The bullet was a ".22" and was mashed perfectly flat. It had been a stray shot. The girl at once returned to her home.

43 YEARS OF LIFE IN JAIL

When Old Man Returned to Home Town in Kentucky No One Knew Him.

Owensboro, Ky.—After 43 years spent in the Arkansas penitentiary at Little Rock, Joseph F. Jones has returned here to pick up the thread of life that was broken when he was sent to prison.

When a young man Jones went to Arkansas to work on a farm. He met and loved the daughter of the farmer who employed him. The girl had another admirer, who was the son of a wealthy farmer. He did not relish the intrusion, quarreled with Jones and fought a knife duel with him at the gate of the girl's home. When the fight ended Jones' rival was dead.

After a hasty trial Jones was convicted of murder in the first degree and sent to prison for life. After 43 years his case was laid before the governor. A pardon was granted. Old man Jones walked out of the prison. The girl for whom he had fought had never married, but she had long since been dead. Peniless, Jones walked from Little Rock to Owensboro. No one remembered him. He is a stranger in his own home town.

U. S. TESTS NEW AIR CAMERA

People Mile Away Are Shown Clearly in a Studio Photograph.

Washington.—Government experimenters have just finished a camera for aerial use which may be adopted by all the allied armies, and is expected to prove of incalculable advantage in the war. The development of the proper lens was the greatest accomplishment.

Trial pictures taken from the top of the Washington monument showed people a full mile away as clearly as if they had been sitting before a photographer's camera in a scientifically lighted room.

As an improved "eye" for artillery, and in locating enemy troops, the new camera is expected to give the allies a more decided advantage than they now hold.

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Raise More Sheep--Alarming Shortage of Wool

Robert H. Moulton tells why farmers should give serious attention to production of this valuable live stock--Profits sure to be large for many years--demand exceeds supply

IF ALL the wool grown in the United States last year were made into pure, all-wool cloth, and the cloth were cut and divided equally among the men and women of the country, there would be about 44 square inches of such cloth allotted to each person; and if the present decline in wool production continues for a few years longer there will not be enough cloth to make a respectable breeches cloth per capita.

Such was the declaration of a speaker before the recent wool and textile conference, held in Philadelphia. In a short paragraph this sums up, not alone the situation which we as Americans face, but which the whole civilized world is facing. The impending shortage of clothing is at hand.

For every 1,000,000 acres of land in the United States in 1900 there were 67 sheep, while today, with a steadily increasing demand for wool and mutton, the same area can boast of less than 60 sheep. The decline in numbers during this period has amounted to something like 3,000,000 sheep, although our population during the same period has increased 16,000,000 souls. Last season we clipped slightly over 42,000,000 fleeces, as against 41,000,000 for 1900, or a reduction of 2,000,000 in 15 years. Our population then was calculated to be 75,000,575, whereas it stands today far above the 100,000,000 mark, or a gain of about 25 per cent.

In the past 15 years the wool production has decreased 4 per cent, thus leaving a difference between production and increased population a claim of 30 per cent dividend.

There are more than 20,000,000 men in Europe under arms, wearing out six times their normal consumption of wool. As the war progresses the available wool of the world is certain to be consumed to the last ounce. Cotton, linen, and other fabrics may be used, but wool will be used as long as it is possible to secure it for the fighting forces. But there is no real substitution for this. Cotton may serve the purpose during the summer; for winter campaigning, especially in Russia and the mountain districts, wool is necessary.

Aside from the tremendous demand for wool for warriors, which has been responsible for the present shortage, and which has brought the wool shortage down to hand-and-mouth proposition, there is a shortage in production. Australia, chief among wool-producing countries, is nearly 40 per cent short of her normal sheep supply because of a drought that killed sheep by the tens of thousands. But this country still has twice as many sheep as we have in the United States.

People living in regions demanding woollens

also reside in the greatest sheep-raising zones. In fact, sheep are raised in every region where wool is in demand, save in the polar regions. It is natural that the woolen industry should spring up in primitive communities and among people who are too poor to afford purchased material for clothing. Therefore, wool growing and manufacturing as an industry has a place in practically all countries. As a country increases in population, however, the lands must be utilized for intensive agricultural purposes and the range for sheep is reduced in more recent years as a consequence. In our own West this is very apparent.

The wool-growing industry in Europe and America has not kept pace with that in newer countries. Nearly one-half of the world's present commercial supply of wool is produced in Australia, New Zealand and Argentina. Notwithstanding the fact that the production in the United States is not increasing materially, wool is produced in every state of the Union. The varied and wide adaptation of sheep in the United States is one of the promising features of the future, if farmers will but appreciate the wonderful fea-

ture of these historic animals.

Not only are wool values certain to increase, but maintain a steady and heavy market demand from all sides for a generation to come.

The reasons are very apparent, namely: First, the wool-using population of the world has of late increased more rapidly than wool production. Second, wool's greatest competitor, cotton, has been in short supply relatively dearer than wool, especially coarse wool. Third, employment at high wages has been so plentiful that the masses have been in a position to buy clothes, and clothes made mostly of wool instead of cotton and shoddy.

There are nearly 50,000,000 fewer sheep in the world today than 15 years ago, and more than 100,000,000 more people demanding wool. In the consumption of wool the United States is far and away in advance of either of the other great nations, for although somewhat behind the United Kingdom in the quantity required for her factories, all that is manufactured here is retained for clothing and other uses of our people, and in addition vast quantities of woollen fabrics are imported from abroad. A large percentage of the wool consumed in the factories of other countries is manufactured for export and sold for use beyond their borders, giving the United States pre-eminence as a wool-consuming nation.

The Mercado Central de Frutos, located at Buenos Aires, is the largest wool market in the world. This port and Bahia Blanca, the great southern Argentine port, handles practically all the wool grown in the republic. At shearing season, wool arrives on ships and trains.

In 1873 the world's sheep population was something like 400,000,000 sheep, whereas today the number is approximately 630,000,000, of which Argentina has about one-sixth, being exceeded in numbers only by Australia, which has 83,000,000 to Argentina's 80,000,000. The United States has something like 55,000,000 sheep, Asiatic Russia 50,000,000 and Great Britain and Ireland about 25,000,000. South America, all told, has more than 100,000,000 sheep, of which two-thirds are in Argentina. There are ten sheep to every man, woman and child, or an average of 50 sheep per family.

Western Canada is coming to be a great sheep country, and here, where millions of acres of grazing land adapted to sheep raising are found, exists one of the finest natural sheep-raising sections close to centers of mutton and wool consumption to be found in the world. The part Canada will play in answering the world's demand for woollens is certain to be important in the near future, for farmers have caught the inspiration resulting from steady prices and a heavy demand for meats and wool.

Our department of agriculture recently gave out a statement which reveals the real situation in facts and figures. This statement was to the effect that the production of wool in the United States in 1915 was 288,777,000 pounds, as compared with 200,192,000 pounds in 1914, and 290,176,000 in 1913. In other words, while we seem to have lost little in production as against 1909, we dropped off 7,000,000 pounds in these two years.

Promotion of increased production of sheep undoubtedly is our great economic problem. One of the paramount features regarding the present shortage in clothing is due to the universal lack of proper grading and caring for the wool from farm to factory. Although the United States ranks as one of the leading wool-producing countries of the world, thousands of pounds of good wool annually are permitted to go to waste because of the farmer's slovenliness in grading and preparing his clip for the market. The present educational program of the bureau of animal husbandry tends to remove this loss.

This means that the amount of wool imported annually by American manufacturers is equal to more than one-half of the home-grown clip. For more than one-half of the home-grown clip, in particular, eight wool growers, Australians in the main, maintain a uniformly high-grade standard in the handling of their wools. This care in preparation for market has served to give that country a full backed by a reputation that readily insures it full value at the time of selling to the manufacturer.

Our modern agriculture needs sheep, more sheep. We need sheep to meet modern practical conditions. Farmers can positively do nothing better than enter sheep breeding with a strain, like the Shropshire, which have gained reputation of being adapted to any sheep-raising region of the continent, and being the "farmer's sheep, a rent-paying sheep, a tenant's sheep, a money-making sheep, wool-producing, mutton-making, quick-fattening and hardy sheep. But like breed is not only an economical feeder, but like breed is improved breeds, good soil conservers. They are adapted to the most intensive system of agriculture.

Self-Defense.

"Going to take a vacation this year?"

"I guess so. I can't afford to, but I think I'd better knock off work for a week just to get rid of the people who insist on asking me when I'm going to, and where I'm going, and if not, why?"

George Miner, in the Mexican Review.

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